substantially perpendicular to the fracture plane to develop fatigue cracks at the notch tips; and propagating the fatigue cracks through the connecting rod in radially opposed directions that are substantially parallel to the fracture plane to separate the cap portion from the rod portion.

19. A process as claimed in claim 18, wherein cyclically moving the cap portion and the rod portion with respect to each other comprises applying a load having a load magnitude that substantially equal to a mean load value to the cap portion, and oscillating the load magnitude about the mean load value by a load amplitude.

20. A process as claimed in claim 18, including the step of applying a dynamic force to said connecting rod during a selected time period.

REMARKS

1. Applicant respectfully draws the examiner's attention to the fact that the priority document (Canadian Patent Application Number 2,287,140; Foreign Filing Date 10/13/1999) is identical to US Patent Application Number 09/409,599; Filed June 22, 2000 (Now US Patent Number 6,644,529) except of adding the following paragraph to the US Patent Application:

"Although the preferred mode for carrying out this invention has been set forth in this specification, it is obvious that there are several alternative modes. One of them for instance, is to apply a harmonic force to the cap, in a direction that is perpendicular to the predetermined fracture plane."
Column 6, Lines 22-27